Air-Fares charged by Indian

4285. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air fares charged by Indian are very high when compared to that charged by private airlines for different domestic sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such dual fare environment is increasingly making the Indian unpopular and leading to its failure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The fares offered by Indian Airlines on domestic sectors are comparable to the fares of the full service carriers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Jollygrant airport

†4286. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to upgrading of Jollygrant airport of Uttarakhand has been started;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to upgrade somemore airstrips in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the work relating to expansion of the airstrips will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The upgradation work at Pantnagar airport has been taken up to cater to operation of ATR-72 type of aircrafts in the first phase. It is likely to be completed by January, 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.